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the *Gabon cliff*, he would fatally find that his time was inevitably come. That "every bullet has its billet," is an article of the soldier's creed that has hurried to the field of Mars many a desperado, who would otherwise have sought and found security in the field of Ceres that he never returned to reap. It would not be difficult, however, to confute such enthusiasts on their own principles. Because heaven may have decreed that some good man must suffer a violent death, will they justify the ruffian who assassinates him? Or because it has determined that some ill-fated nation shall degenerate into slavery, will they assist the oppressor to accelerate its fall? Surely no. Then how can they argue against using those very exertions that for ought they know providence has decreed as the means of their escape? That we should use all lawful endeavours to preserve our own life and the lives of others, was the injunction of an assembly of divines, who were, notwithstanding, such rigid predestinarians, that they believed that God has foreordained whatsoever comes to pass. Were even miracles of mercy again to interpose, the prodigy of indiscretion has the least reason in the world to depend on them.

False courage too, giving the desperation of the maniac to him who wants the resolution of the hero, has involved in perils multitudes who might safely have effected their purpose. The solitary wanderer, who on the uninhabited heath perished in a wreath of snow, would have permitted his friends to escort him; and the more rash adventurer whom the rain-raised flood swept from the steps of the foid, would have waited till the water had subsided, had they both not either mistaken caution for cowardice themselves, or suspected that their acquaintance would. Mistaking foresight for timidity, the inconsiderate sot lulls himself to rest in supposed security, till alarmed by impending ruin, like a bewildered man, half awake, he stumbles into the gulph from which he imagined himself receding; and the admiration with

which "hair-breadth scapes" are usually felicitated, has caused them to be sought for by many a bravo, whom the crowd, judging every enterprize foolishly planned that is unsuccessfully terminated, mocked under his mischances, and reproached for his temerity. The contempt of death is laudable only when safety would be prolonged at the expense of virtue; and hazarding life becomes criminal whenever nothing valuable can be attained by the exploit. The brave man, foreseeing possible exigencies will learn to swim; but will not put to sea in a storm. When an epidemick destemper rages round him, he will redouble his diligence to preserve his health; but will not forbear to visit the sufferers whenever he has a prospect of relieving them. On the verge of an intested wild he will dissuade his fellow travellers from proceeding till "holy light" shall be their safeguard; but if the banditti approach he will resolutely oppose it, while they who over-persuaded him to pursue his journey are pusillanimously for yielding their treasure. And if unavertable casualties overpower him, he endures poverty and pain with a fortitude that was never in alliance with affected courage.

Bullycarry,

O.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

THE Italian word *fonte* is marked in Veneroni's, Barrett's, and Altieri's Dictionaries as only of the masculine gender; and the primitive latin *fons* has ever, as far as I could learn, been considered as masculine. From which considerations, I hesitated not to charge Tasso with a solecism in making it feminine. But Veneroni, as I have since discovered, ranks it in his grammar amongst those nouns that are of either gender, although he has been deficient in that particular in his dictionary; so that Tasso may perhaps stand unimpeachable so far. It is only to be regretted that our Italian lexicographers are not more accurate. Nor is this the only inconsistency of Veneroni.

RICCIARDO.